

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The title is amended to address the objection to the title noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1-17 were previously pending in the application. Claims 2 and 5 are cancelled and new claims 18-20 are added. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-20 are presented for consideration.

Claims 7, 8, 15, 16 and 17 are amended as suggested in the Official Action to address the claim objections noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1-17 were rejected as anticipated by KATSUKI et al. 5,581,767. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended and recites that the plurality of state control units comprises at least four state control units that are directly interconnected to each other by the event distributing means.

By way of example, as seen in Figure 2 of the present application, reproduced below, each of four state control units S101 are directly interconnected to each other by dedicated event communication lines 145.

Fig. 2

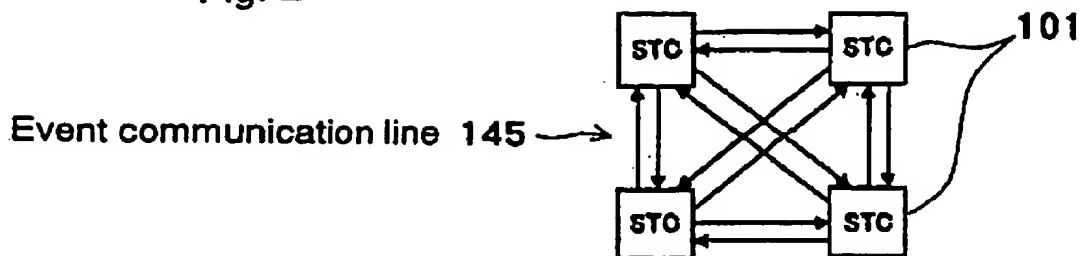


Figure 2 of KATSUKI, reproduced below, shows control unit 22 connected to other control units in an immediately adjacent row or an immediately adjacent column.

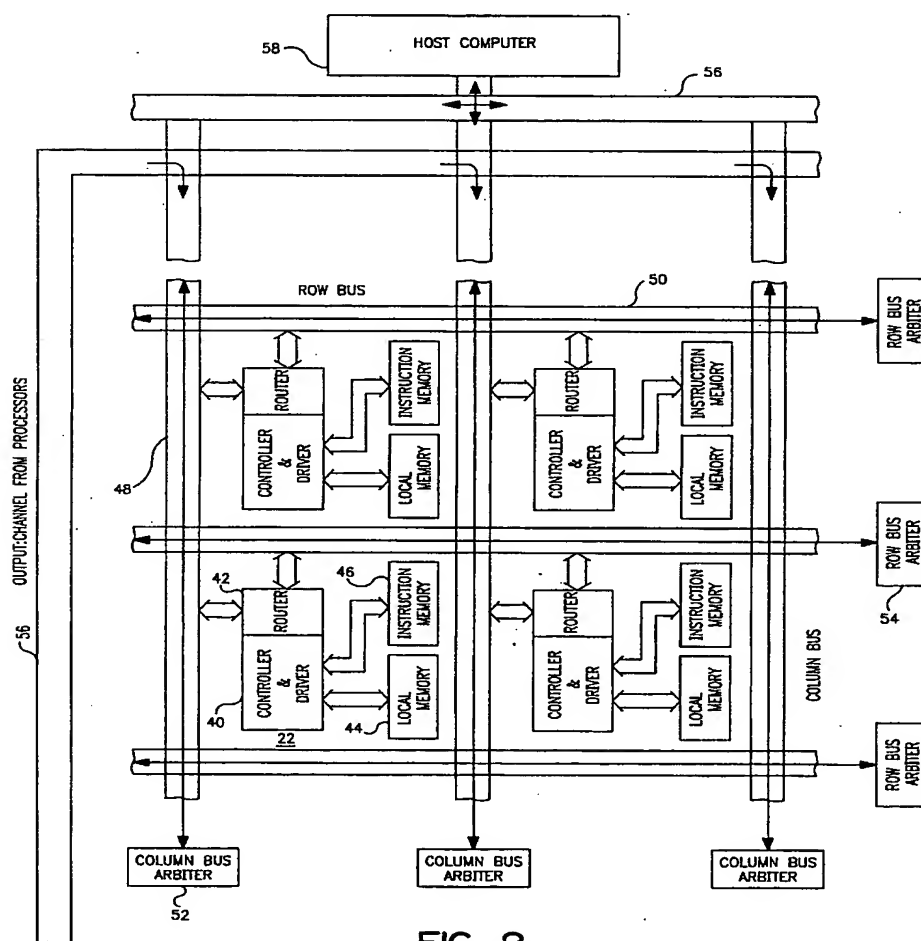


FIG. 2

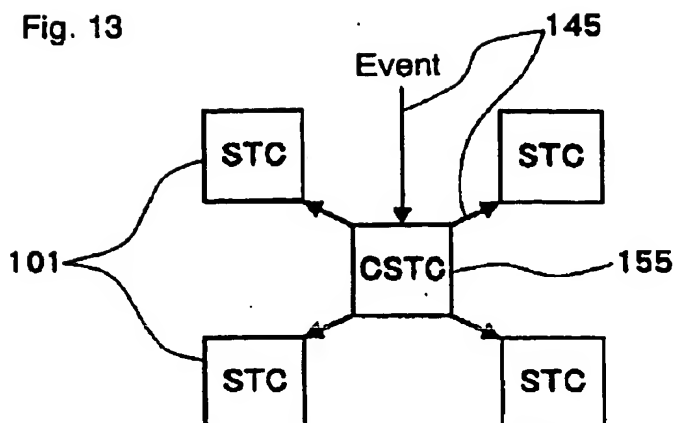
However, there is no direct interconnection between controllers 22 in an adjacent column that are not in the same row. Rather, in KATSUKI, controllers 22 that are on different rows are connected by both a column bus and a row bus, so that data is first applied to a column bus line and then switched to a row line. See column 12, lines 29-33.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-8, 10-14, 16 and 17 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

Claim 9 is rewritten in independent form and recites that a central control unit is provided for distributing event data to a plurality of state control units. The central control unit is surrounded by the plurality of control units.

By way of example, Figure 13 of the present application, reproduced below, shows central control unit 155 surrounded by a plurality of state control units 101.



Referring again to Figure 2 of KATSUKI (reproduced above), host computer 58 (noted in the Official Action as a central control unit) is not surrounded by a plurality of state control units as recited.

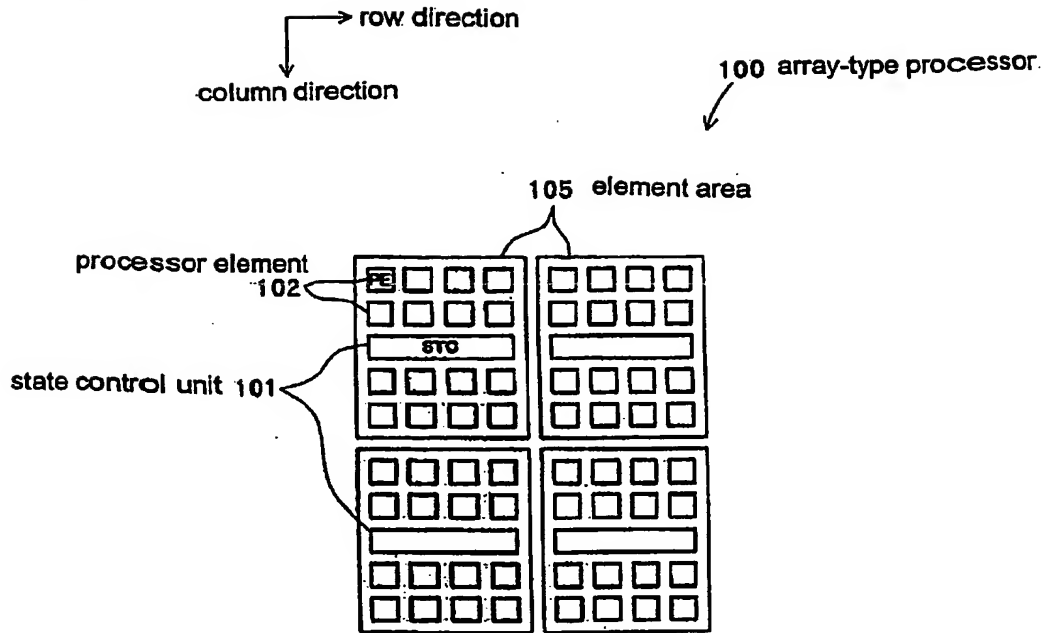
As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable as to claim 9.

Claim 15 is rewritten in independent form and recites that the multiplicity of processor elements are divided into element areas so that there is a state control unit for each element area and there is one state control unit for a plurality of processor elements.

By way of example, as seen in Figure 3 of the present application, reproduced below, there are sixteen processor elements 102 per element area 105 and one state control unit 101 that is connected to the processor elements of a respective element area 105.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Fig. 3



As set forth in the Official Action, KATSUKI at column 6, lines 32-35 disclose a one-to-one correspondence between processor units and control units.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection as to claim 15 is not viable.

New claims 18-20 are added. Support for the new claims can be found on page 8, lines 1-6, for example.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", is written over a horizontal line.

Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

LM/lk